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S.R. NO. 5

JAN 2 2 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO INCREASE THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR HOME CHILD CARE FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services allows for child care cost reimbursement under the Child Care Connection Hawaii program; and

WHEREAS, this reimbursement allows parents to secure stable employment and increase the family's economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, center-based care and family child care homes are eligible to receive reimbursements for child care rendered to families receiving subsidies through the Child Care Connection Hawaii program; and

WHEREAS, the reimbursement rates for center-based care for families receiving subsidies has been increased by an average of twenty percent in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the child care rates for family child care homes have remained stagnant since 2009, and at a substantially lower rate than that of the centers; and

WHEREAS, currently the child care rates for family childcare homes are a mere forty-four percent of that of child care centers for the same population and the same services; and

WHEREAS, the number of available child care center seats is low, and non-existent on several of the neighbor islands; and

WHEREAS, it is in the State's interest to encourage the availability of licensed family child care homes to accommodate the chronic lack of available child care; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the Department of Human Services is urged to raise the reimbursements to family child care homes to seventy-five percent of the current center child care rate; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Services provide incentive bonuses to family child care homes for accreditation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY: